

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION**

IN RE COLLEGE ATHLETE NIL
LITIGATION

Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW

**[PROPOSED] ORDER GRANTING
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY SETTLEMENT APPROVAL**

1 This matter comes before the Court on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of Class
 2 Action Settlement with Defendants National Collegiate Athletic Association (“NCAA”), Atlantic
 3 Coast Conference (“ACC”), The Big Ten Conference, Inc. (“Big Ten”), The Big 12 Conference, Inc.
 4 (“Big 12”), Pac-12 Conference (“Pac-12”) and Southeastern Conference (“SEC”) (collectively, the
 5 “Defendants”) (“Motion”).

6 WHEREAS, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and the proposed stipulated settlement
 7 classes (“Settlement Classes”), and Defendants, have agreed, subject to Court approval following
 8 notice to the Settlement Classes and a hearing, to settle the above-captioned matter (“Lawsuit”) upon
 9 the terms set forth in the Settlement Agreement between Plaintiffs and Defendants NCAA, ACC,
 10 Big Ten, Big 12, Pac-12, and SEC (“Settlement Agreement”) (attached as Exhibit 1 to the
 11 Declaration of Steve W. Berman in Support of Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary Approval of
 12 Settlement);

13 WHEREAS, this Court has reviewed and considered the Settlement Agreement entered into
 14 between the parties, the record in this case, and the briefs and arguments of counsel;

15 WHEREAS, Plaintiffs have applied for an order granting preliminary approval of the
 16 settlement set forth in the Settlement Agreement (“Settlement”) and directing notice to the
 17 Settlement Classes (defined in paragraphs 3, 5, 7, and 9, below) in connection with the Settlement
 18 Agreement pursuant to Rule 23(e)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

19 WHEREAS, this Court preliminarily finds, for purposes of settlement only, that the Lawsuit
 20 meets all the prerequisites of Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

21 WHEREAS, Plaintiffs have presented sufficient information, pursuant to the Federal
 22 Rules, to justify directing notice of the Settlement to the Settlement Classes;

23 WHEREAS, all defined terms contained herein shall have the same meanings as set forth in
 24 the Settlement Agreement;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

26 1. The Court hereby preliminarily approves the Settlement Agreement and the
 27 Settlement set forth therein, finding that it is likely to approve the Settlement as fair, reasonable, and
 28 adequate pursuant to Rule 23(e)(2), subject to further consideration at a hearing (the “Fairness

Hearing”).

2. The Fairness Hearing shall be held before this Court on _____, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. [at least 150 days after the Notice Date (at the convenience of the Court)], at the United States District Court for the Northern District of California, Oakland Division, located at 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612, to determine whether to approve certification of the Settlement Classes for settlement purposes; whether the proposed Settlement of the Lawsuit on the terms and conditions provided for in the Settlement Agreement is fair, reasonable, and adequate to the Settlement Classes and should be approved by the Court; whether a final judgment should be entered herein; whether the proposed plan of distribution should be approved; to determine the amount of fees and expenses that should be awarded to Class Counsel; and to determine the amount of the service awards that should be provided to the class representatives. The Court may adjourn the Fairness Hearing without further notice to the members of the Settlement Classes.

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court preliminarily certifies, for purposes of effectuating this Settlement, a Settlement Class as follows, hereinafter referred to as the “Settlement Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Class”:

All student-athletes who compete on, competed on, or will compete on a Division I athletic team at any time between June 15, 2020 through the end of the Injunctive Relief Settlement Term.¹ This Class excludes the officers, directors, and employees of Defendants. This Class also excludes all judicial officers presiding over this action and their immediate family members and staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

4. The Court designates Grant House, DeWayne Carter, Nya Harrison, and Sedona Prince as the class representatives for the Settlement Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Class.

5. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court also preliminarily certifies, for purposes of effectuating this settlement, a Settlement Class as follows, hereinafter referred to as the “Settlement Football and Men’s Basketball Class”:

All student-athletes who have received or will receive full GIA scholarships and compete on, competed on, or will compete on a Division I men’s basketball team or an FBS football team, at a college or university that is a member of one of the Power Five Conferences

¹ The Injunctive Settlement Term is the ten (10) Academic Years following the date of Final Approval of the Settlement.

(including Notre Dame), and who have been or will be declared initially eligible for competition in Division I at any time from June 15, 2016 through September 15, 2024. This Class excludes the officers, directors, and employees of Defendants. This Class also excludes all judicial officers presiding over this action and their immediate family members and staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

6. The Court designates Tymir Oliver and DeWayne Carter as the class representatives for the Settlement Football and Men's Basketball Class.

7. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court preliminarily certifies, for purposes of effectuating this settlement, a Settlement Class as follows, hereinafter referred to as the "Settlement Women's Basketball Class":

All student-athletes who have received or will receive full GIA scholarships and compete on, competed on, or will compete on a Division I women's basketball team at a college or university that is a member of one the Power Five Conferences (including Notre Dame), and who have been or will be declared initially eligible for competition in Division I at any time from June 15, 2016 through September 15, 2024. This Class excludes the officers, directors, and employees of Defendants. This Class also excludes all judicial officers presiding over this action and their immediate family members and staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

8. The Court designates Sedona Prince as the class representative for the Settlement Women's Basketball Class.

9. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court preliminarily certifies, for purposes of effectuating this settlement, a Settlement Class as follows, hereinafter referred to as the "Settlement Additional Sports Class":

Excluding members of the Football and Men's Basketball Class and members of the Women's Basketball Class, all student-athletes who compete on, competed on, or will compete on a Division I athletic team and who have been or will be declared initially eligible for competition in Division I at any time from June 15, 2016 through September 15, 2024. This Class excludes the officers, directors, and employees of Defendants. This Class also excludes all judicial officers presiding over this action and their immediate family members and staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

10. The Court designates Grant House and Nya Harrison as the class representatives for the Settlement Additional Sports Class.

11. The Court will refer to the Settlement Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Class,

1 Settlement Football and Men’s Basketball Class, the Settlement Women’s Basketball Class, and the
 2 Settlement Additional Sports Class collectively as the “Settlement Classes.” The Court will refer to
 3 the Settlement Football and Men’s Basketball Class, the Settlement Women’s Basketball Class, and
 4 the Settlement Additional Sports Class collectively as the “Damages Settlement Classes.”

5 12. The Court designates Hagens Berman Sobol Shapiro, LLP and Winston & Strawn
 6 LLP as Class Counsel for the Settlement Classes.

7 13. Having found that it will likely approve the Settlement and certify the Settlement
 8 Classes for purposes of settlement with Defendants, the Court hereby directs Plaintiffs to give notice
 9 of the Settlement to the Settlement Classes.

10 14. The Court approves as to form and content the proposed notice forms and other
 11 forms, including the Email Notice, Postcard Notice, Digital Notices, Press Release, Long Form
 12 Notice, and Claim Form, attached as Exhibits 1 to 6, respectively, to the Declaration of Carla A.
 13 Peak Regarding Settlement Notice Program (“Peak Declaration”). The Court further finds the
 14 proposed contents of these notices, and the proposed plan of notice described in the Peak
 15 Declaration, meet the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and due process, and are
 16 the best notice practicable under the circumstances and shall constitute due and sufficient notice to
 17 all persons entitled thereto.

18 15. The Court appoints the firm of Verita Global, LLC (“Settlement Administrator”) to
 19 supervise and administer the notice procedure as well as the processing of claims as more fully set
 20 forth below:

21 a. No later than October 1, 2024 or two weeks after the filing of this Preliminary
 22 Approval Order, whichever is later, the Settlement Administrator shall establish a public, case-
 23 specific website at the following web address—collegeathletecompensation.com—for the
 24 settlements in the above-captioned matter and *Hubbard v. NCAA, et al.*, Case No. 4:23-cv-01593-
 25 CW (N.D. Cal.). The website shall make available the full version of the Settlement Agreement, the
 26 Preliminary Approval Order, the Long Form Notice, and the Claim Form, in both an electronically
 27 fillable form and in a format that may be downloaded and/or printed;

28 b. Beginning no later than October 1, 2024 or two weeks after the filing of this

1 Preliminary Approval Order (the “Notice Date”), whichever is later, the Settlement Administrator
 2 shall commence providing e-mail notice, substantially in the form annexed as Exhibit 1 to the Peak
 3 Declaration, to all Settlement Class Members whose email addresses can be identified with
 4 reasonable effort;

5 c. Beginning no later than October 1, 2024 or two weeks after the filing of this
 6 Preliminary Approval Order, whichever is later, the Settlement Administrator shall commence
 7 mailing of the Postcard Notice via the United States Postal Service first-class mail, postage prepaid,
 8 substantially in the form annexed as Exhibit 2 to the Peak Declaration.

9 16. The claims period shall commence October 1, 2024 or two weeks after the filing of
 10 this Preliminary Approval Order, whichever is later, and shall continue through and including 165
 11 after the Notice Date.

12 17. Class Counsel shall file their motion for attorneys’ fees, costs, and service awards for
 13 the class representatives, and all supporting documentation and papers, by 60 days after the Notice
 14 Date.

15 18. Any person who desires to request exclusion from the Damages Settlement Classes
 16 must do so by 105 days after the Notice Date, and such request for exclusion shall be in the form of a
 17 signed letter mailed or otherwise delivered to the Settlement Administrator stating that the person
 18 wants to be excluded from the *In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW
 19 (N.D. Cal.) settlement, and the letter must include the person’s name, current address, and NCAA
 20 ECID number if available. All persons who submit valid and timely requests for exclusion shall have
 21 no rights under the Settlement Agreement, shall not share in the distribution of the settlement funds,
 22 and shall not be bound by the final judgments relating to Defendants entered in the litigation.

23 19. Any member of the Settlement Classes may enter an appearance in the litigation, at
 24 his or her own expense, individually or through counsel of his or her own choice. If the member does
 25 not enter an appearance, he or she will be represented by Class Counsel.

26 20. Any member of the Settlement Classes may appear and show cause, if he or she has
 27 any reason, why the proposed Settlement should or should not be approved as fair, reasonable, and
 28 adequate; why a judgment should or should not be entered thereon; why the plan of distribution

1 should or should not be approved; why attorneys' fees and expenses should or should not be
2 awarded to Class Counsel; or why the service awards should or should not be awarded to the class
3 representatives. All written objections and supporting papers must (a) clearly identify the case name
4 and number (*In re College Athlete NIL Litigation*, Case No. 4:20-cv-03919-CW (N.D. Cal.)), (b) be
5 submitted to the Court either by mailing them to the Class Action Clerk, United States District Court
6 for the Northern District of California, 1301 Clay St, Oakland, CA 94612, or by filing it in person at
7 any location of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; and (c) be
8 filed or postmarked on or before 105 days after the Notice Date.

9 21. All papers in support of the settlement and responses by Class Counsel regarding
10 objections and exclusions shall be filed and served by 135 Days after Notice Date.

11 22. All reasonable expenses incurred in identifying and notifying members of the
12 Settlement Classes, as well as administering the Settlement Fund, shall be paid for as set forth in the
13 Settlement Agreement.

14 23. Neither the Settlement Agreement, nor any of its terms or provisions, nor any of the
15 negotiations or proceedings connected with it, shall be construed as an admission or concession by
16 Plaintiffs or Defendants, respectively, of the truth or falsity of any of the allegations in the Lawsuit,
17 or of any liability, fault, or wrongdoing of any kind.

18 24. All members of the Settlement Classes are temporarily barred and enjoined from
19 instituting or continuing the prosecution of any action asserting the claims released in the proposed
20 Settlement, until the Court enters final judgment with respect to the fairness, reasonableness, and
21 adequacy of the Settlement.

22 25. Any member of the Damages Settlement Classes who does not properly and timely
23 request exclusion, upon final approval of the Settlement, shall be bound by the terms and provisions
24 of the Settlement so approved, including, but not limited to, the releases, waivers, and covenants set
25 forth in the Settlement Agreement, whether or not such person or entity objected to the Settlement
26 Agreement and whether or not such person or entity makes a claim upon the settlement funds.
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IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: _____

The Honorable Claudia Wilken
United States Senior District Court Judge